**Introduction to Ernest Hemingway and *A Farewell to Arms***

**10 Honors**

Author Background: (1899-1961)

* 1917: After graduating from high school, developed his journalistic, reporter’s writing style while working as—you guessed it—a journalist
* 1918: served as ambulance driver on the Italian front (experiences contributed to his writing of *A Farewell to Arms*) where he was wounded in the legs and sent home
* publication of *A Farewell to Arms* in 1929 brought Hemingway newfound success and fame; began travelling (Cuba, Florida, France, and safaris in Africa)
* Earned Pulitzer Prize for *The Old Man and the Sea* in 1953; awarded Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954
* By the mid 1950s, Hemingway had become depressed and spent his time in hospitals. In 1961, he took his own life with his favorite gun.

Stylistic Techniques

* Simplistic writing style (on the surface)
* Tendency to report sensory details
* Use of stream of consciousness
* Use of understatements

Characteristics of the Hemingway Hero

* General loss of faith in conventional morality: home, family, religion
* Ability and desire to do his job well
* Belief that no matter how much trouble life gives a person, he must never let his suffering show, except for fears, which surface at night
* Belief that the world is generally a cruel place
* Demonstrates that men and women can find moments of meaning and happiness despite the cruelty of the world

Novel Background

* World War I (The Great War). Protagonist Frederic Henry is an American serving in the Italian army. Italy was traditionally an ally of Germany and Austria, however, the Allied Powers promised Italy part of the Austrian land if they would fight with the Allies.
* Hemingway once referred to *Farewell*… as his version of Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*; it is the tragic story of a romance between an American lieutenant in the Italian army, Frederic Henry, and a British nurse, Catherine Barkley, that unfolds on the Italian front during World War I. The novel is divided into five books that are analogous to the five acts in a Shakespearean tragedy (such as *Romeo and Juliet*).